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HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

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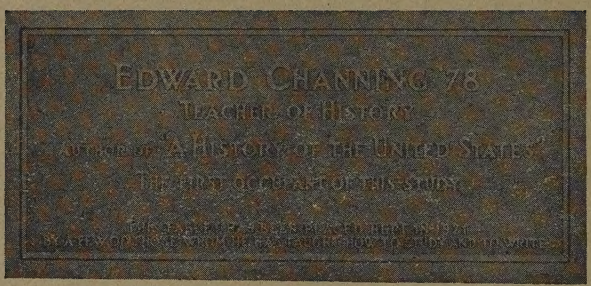

TABLET DESIGNED BY TIFFANY FOR STUDY 417

HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

MAY No. 4 1921

PROFESSOR CHANNING, who completed his term as President of the American Historical Association at the meeting held last December in Washington, was the guest at a dinner in the Cosmos Club on December 30th, given by several of his former students. As a permanent testimonial of their feeling for him, they have offered the library a tablet, reproduced on the opposite page:

EDWARD CHANNING '78
TEACHER OF HISTORY
AUTHOR OF 'A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES'
THE FIRST OCCUPANT OF THIS STUDY
THIS TABLET HAS BEEN PLACED HERE IN 1921
BY A FEW OF THOSE WHOM HE HAS TAUGHT HOW TO STUDY AND TO WRITE

This is to be placed above the door of study No. 417, where he, with Miss Moore's assistance, has just completed the fifth volume of his 'History of the United States.'

The tablet was shown to Mr. Channing, and accepted by Mr. Coolidge, at an informal tea in the Widener Room on April 6th. It measures $8\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

* * *

THREE MANUSCRIPT POEMS by Alan Seeger, a gift from his mother, have been placed in the Treasure Room. The poems, 'The Aisne,' 'The Host,' and 'I have a Rendezvous with Death,' were sent from the front and are written in pencil on both sides of ordinary exercise-book pages, with Seeger's signature at the end. Mrs. Seeger has had the eight pages made into an ex-

quisite volume by Miss Sears of Boston. The pages are inlaid and protected by transparent silk and put into a hand-tooled morocco binding.

Comparison of the manuscripts with the printed poems shows several variations. In 'I have a Rendezvous with Death' the third line of the manuscript reads

'When Spring comes round with rustling shade'

while the printed version has 'When spring comes back.'

F. M.

* * *

PROFESSOR C. H. C. WRIGHT has loaned for exhibition the manuscript of some hitherto unknown lines by Robert Louis Stevenson. These were written during Stevenson's courtship of Mrs. Osbourne, probably in January, 1878, for a tiny newspaper, 'The Bandbox,' printed by hand by Mr. Wright, who was at that time a playmate of Mrs. Osbourne's son. They have been privately printed in a small edition, in facsimile, by Mr. Winship.

After Stevenson's marriage, during 1880–1882, Lloyd Osbourne had a toy press on which were printed those curious little leaflets with illustrations cut out of wood by Stevenson, which are so eagerly sought by collectors. These and the manuscript of a long poem, 'The Builders Doom,' written for this press but not printed until after Stevenson's death, will be on exhibition during May in the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Room. F. V. L.

* * *

THE DELEGATES to the Boston Conference of the American Branches of the Dickens Fellowship were entertained at tea in the Widener Room on Monday afternoon, May 2. The visitors had an opportunity to inspect the more important of the Dickens books in the Harry Elkins Widener Collection, including first editions of eight of the novels in the original parts, and the series of parodies on Dickens.

MR. LANE read a paper on the old college silver at a meeting of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts held January 27th and repeated it at the request of the Modern Language Conference and the Classical Club in the Treasure Room on April 11. The earliest gift of plate to the college was 'The Great Salt' received in 1643 from Richard Harris. This continued to be a usual method of expressing loyalty, gratitude or friendship to Harvard, until the end of the colonial period. A number of pieces, including the salt, two large covered cups, and four tankards, besides several articles formerly owned by College Officers of the Eighteenth Century, fortunately still remain in the possession of the College.

At the same meeting, Mr. Potter exhibited the book-plates of some of the older college societies. Two of these, to which members were apparently in the habit of presenting books, were 'The Knights of the Order of the Pudding Stick' and 'The Knights of the Square Table,' which seem to have enrolled some of the leading spirits in the classes that graduated a little over a century ago.

* * *

MISS BRIGGS has completed the cataloguing of the American plays, a job that was left incomplete by Miss Warren because of the giving out of the Wendell money. When Mr. Atkinson visited us recently, he was disturbed to find that certain things had been left at loose ends, and as a result of a talk with me then, and some later talk when I visited him in New York, he gave the Library $95.00, to complete the work. This was the amount that I had said it would take. The work has now been completed, and the cost turned out to be $97.32.

T. F. C.

* * *

MR. POTTER and MR. WINSHIP have invited their fellow-members of the Club of Odd Volumes to visit the Library on the afternoon of Thursday, May 5.

Dr. Ray W. Pettengill calls attention to the fact that two of the manuscripts of the Riant Collection are wrongly described in the Riant Catalogue. These are numbers 73 and 74, which, like 71, are in reality simply copies of the 'Statutes of the Order of Teutonic Knights,' as established by the Grand Master Maximilian, Archduke of Austria, at the general conclave held at Mergentheim in 1606. No. 71 is so described, but the true contents of the other two numbers was not recognized by the cataloguer. The text of all three is printed with minor orthographic and verbal differences in Elben's 'Sammlungen für die Geschichte des Hoch- und Teutsch-Meisterthums.' No. 71 contains some additional extracts. No. 73 contains colored plates, and is illuminated in gilt and red, having, perhaps, been made for some wealthy house or individual of the Order.

It may be noted at the same time that No. 72, Töppen's 'L'Origine de l'Ordre Teutonique,' is a French translation of the author's German work, 'Des Deutschen Ordens Anfange nach den Quellen,' published in Neue Preussische Provinzblätter, VIII, p. 122 ff, Königsberg, 1849.

Libraries that have copies of the Riant Catalogue on their shelves may find it worth while to note the correction. W. C. L.

* * *

Of the last one hundred applications for missing parts of reports and continued publications, sent out by the Continuation Department, a response of some sort, (satisfactory or otherwise) was received from 80% of the parties concerned. Of these responses, 62% were entirely satisfactory, all missing numbers desired being sent. At present, applications are only made for those publications which are handled in the daily work. It would be highly desirable to make a systematic survey of the Continuation records and apply for missing parts of many incomplete sets. A. B. W.

Mr. Currier visited New Haven on January 24th and addressed the members of the staff of the Yale University Library. The paper read was one which he had prepared for the meeting of the College Librarians held in New York in November and dealt with the handling and care of continuations. The system described by Mr. Currier was his ideal scheme for serials and not in all respects the one now in practice at Harvard. Mr. Currier's paper proved so interesting that an animated discussion took place, and in fact was brought to a close only by the lateness of the hour. However, it aroused so much interest that the discussion it provoked was continued the next morning and many questions were asked in regard to the present methods employed at Harvard. K. W.

* * *

Mr. Harry Houdini, after his visit to the library in January, sent a number of works on magic and kindred subjects, which were lacking from the collection of 1244 books and periodicals on palmistry, conjuring and the illusions of spiritualism, recently given by Mr. Shaw.

* * *

In October the Harvard University Press fell into line with certain other publishing houses and began printing cards for the books it issues. The cards are distributed to a selected list of six hundred libraries, including all the larger public and university, as well as many college libraries, and a few high school libraries. Although these cards are for advertising purposes, it was decided to make them conform as far as practicable to Library of Congress usage, and the catalogue department was asked to prepare them so that they might serve the needs of these libraries as fully as possible. The replies to a questionnaire sent out by the press indicate that the cards are regarded favorably by librarians. C. P. B.

Miss Dorothea Clapp, formerly of our staff, has given the library a number of interesting items from the library of her father, John Bouvé Clapp, the dramatic critic. The items include several volumes of newspapers, among them 'The Boston Advertiser' for the last half of 1813, four volumes of 'The Boston Herald,' and a volume of 'The Illustrated London News' which will help complete the gaps in our set of this paper that we have been trying to fill. Miss Clapp has also given to the Theatre Collection twelve manuscript note books made by her father, giving the casts at the performances of various Boston theatres during the early and middle nineteenth century. T. F. C.

* * *

Miss Alma Blount, Associate Professor in the State Normal College at Ypsilanti, Michigan, contributes the following answer to the questions which have been asked concerning the contents of a low wooden case in the Treasure Room stack: 'The chest contains an onomasticon of the Mediaeval Arthurian Romances. The compilation was begun in '98–'99, and has been continued by me at intervals in the Harvard, Cornell, and Chicago libraries, and in the British Museum and the Bibliothèque Nationale. The lists, both of person and place names, were complete for all available printed texts up to the recent Lancelot publications by Dr. H. O. Sommer, which are yet to be added. The work was done under the patronage of the late Prof. Schofield, and was started at his suggestion when I was a student in Comparative Literature at Radcliffe.'

* * *

The Prince Society has issued a volume edited by Mr. Winship, with the title 'The New England Company of 1649 and John Eliot.' He also wrote the introduction for a new edition of 'The Journal of Madam Knight,' written in 1704.

Mr. Edwin Francis Edgett recently presented to the Theatre Collection an extremely valuable and interesting card catalogue, compiled by himself, listing the plays produced in Boston during the years 1876 to 1913. With the card catalogue he has also given a collection of eleven volumes embracing notes and newspaper clippings giving the theatrical announcements taken from the Boston daily papers between the years 1876 and 1908.

* * *

Miss Anna J. Gay of Simmons College and Dr. John W. Rice of the Library School at Albany came to the library in March for practical training, taking up special work and carrying it to completion under the direction of the members of the regular staff to whom it would otherwise have been assigned.

* * *

The Theatre Collection reports that the last three months have been the most satisfactory, not only for the large number of important accessions, but even more on account of the increasing number of individuals who realize that this is a place where their treasured mementos of bygone days will be taken good care of.

THE HARVARD-YALE LIBRARY MEETING

By A Visitor

The long-planned Harvard-Yale library meeting has taken place. Harvard entertained thirteen members of the Yale staff for two days in January. The high degree of efficiency which was shown in the careful planning of every detail in the arrangements for this unique library meeting, made it a great success. When the Harvard invitation, including an outline of the program planned, was received at Yale, there was great enthusiasm

among the members of the staff, but owing to the distance and the high cost of railroad tickets, some were prevented from accepting.

Instead of a dignified and formal opening with an address by the president, the meeting started in the Widener Room where Mr. Winship had invited all to take tea, just the stimulus needed to put every one in the best of humor. This offered an excellent opportunity for all to meet and get acquainted. A system of 'shadows' had been arranged by Mr. Currier, whereby a member of the Harvard staff had been assigned to each Yale visitor, to act as her guide during the visit. After the tea, the Yale people were given a personally conducted tour through the beautiful building, including a chance to examine some of the rare collections of treasures of which Harvard is the proud and fortunate possessor. This proved so very interesting that it was difficult to reassemble the party at six o'clock when dinner was served at the Harvard Union.

No set program had been arranged, but impromptu remarks were made by Messrs. Lane, Coolidge and Keogh. Mr. Chase gave the New Haven guests a cordial invitation to visit the Boston Public Library while they were in town. When all were refreshed both physically and mentally, the dinner party broke up rather hastily for the majority were to attend the performance of Galsworthy's 'Strife' at the Copley Theatre, while others were to spend the evening visiting with friends.

The next morning, the meeting took on a more business-like aspect. Mr. Lane addressed the gathering and then each individual member of the Yale group went to investigate the particular phase of the work in which he or she was most interested, and to confer with various members of the Harvard staff. Mr. and Mrs. Lane entertained members of both staffs at their home for luncheon, which was a most pleasant conclusion for this reciprocity meeting of the two great university libraries. The

delightful hospitality of Harvard was much appreciated by Yale.

Upon the return to New Haven it was evident that the trip had not only been a most enjoyable one but very profitable as well. Some of the features of the work at Harvard which attracted most attention were: the method of routing work in the catalogue department; the short-cut cataloguing; the arrangement for pamphlet boxes and the routine used in getting them to the shelf; some of the details of filing, such as the method used for classical authors; the classification, especially for the history groups and the new scheme for the European War; the present practice in use for continuations; the charging system, including the method for reserving books in the stalls and the sending of overdue notices; the co-operation between the order and catalogue departments in getting books on to the shelf within a certain length of time; and the new method of handling gifts. The interchange of ideas is always a means of growth and expansion.

K. W.

MARTIN LUTHER

In order to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of Luther's appearance before the Diet of Worms, on April 17 and 18, 1521, Mr. Lane has put on exhibition a number of extraordinarily fine Lutherana, in part owned by the Harvard Library, with a few from Andover and from the Boston Public Library, and in part loaned by collectors, chiefly by Mr. J. P. Morgan, Mr. G. A. Plimpton, Dr. E. C. Streeter, and Dr. Preserved Smith.

The gem of the exhibition is a pair of portraits by Lucas Cranach of Luther and his wife, made at the time of their marriage, in June, 1525. The small, round pendants are among the very best Cranachs in existence, and as art almost worthy to compete with Dürer or with Holbein. The pale, strong, thoughtful, good-humored and slightly

coarse face of the Reformer is the best of his known portraits; and in the far from beautiful countenance of Catharine von Bora one can see the fine character that made her his worthy mate. Mr. Morgan, who lent these objects, has also furnished a specimen of Luther's autograph in a signature to a certificate of ordination for Henry Lichtenberg, dated 1543, and in a small notebook said to have been kept by Luther for the entry of theological miscellanea, and given by Musculus to Parsimonius in 1547. The Harvard Library is also able to show Luther's autograph in a tract by John Eck, and a number of Luther tracts annotated in the hand of his follower Räuber, pastor at Eisleben, 1505–58. These notes, some of which have considerable historical interest, are in course of preparation for publication.

The bulk of the exhibit consists of a wealth of tracts illustrating every phase of the Reformer's career, the indulgence controversy, the debate with Eck, the popular pamphlets, the oration at Worms, the translation of the Bible, the polemic against Henry VIII, the liturgical books, and the hymns. A few interesting early works about Luther have been included, and a few books from his own library. The most interesting of these are the Iliad and Odyssey given him by Philip Melanchthon in 1519, as the autograph inscriptions testify. These, and some early catechisms, were loaned by Mr. G. A. Plimpton.

Preserved Smith.

JOHN KEATS

Mr. George H. Sargent of the Boston Transcript wrote of the Keats Memorial Exhibition in the Treasure Room that 'never before anywhere has such a remarkable collection of original Keats books, manuscripts and letters been brought together.' The Harry Elkins Widener Collection exhibited an unsurpassed set of the first editions in original condition, and other copies from

the Norton and Aldrich collections made it possible to show pages of text as well as the title pages of these editions. But the outstanding distinction was given by the volumes loaned by three of the Library's best friends.

Miss Amy Lowell loaned the manuscripts of the poems 'The Eve of St. Agnes' and 'I Stood Tip-toe upon a little Hill,' as well as an autograph letter to Richard Woodhouse containing a draft of the 'Ode to Autumn.' One of his letters to Fanny Brawne was accompanied by the copy of the first edition of 'Lamia,' 1820, with the inscription on the title page 'To F. B. from J. K.' The manuscript of the first draft of the 'Sonnet on Chapman's Homer' was supplemented by a letter from Mr. Frank B. Bemis's collection, written by Keats to Haydon when he returned the latter's copy of the original edition of the Homer. Mr. Bemis also contributed the copies of 'Endymion' and the 'Poems' of 1817, which were given by Keats to Charles Wells, with manuscript annotations, and several very interesting autograph letters.

The Pierpont Morgan Library sent several volumes and letters which had not before been publicly exhibited. One letter from Keats to his sister contains a number of verses, and another, to his brother in America, is 28 pages in length. A letter to his publisher enclosed the original drafts for the title-page, dedication and preface to 'Endymion,' and another discusses proof-sheets. A letter from Shelley, dated June 8, 1821, speaks of 'composing a poem on Keats.' Another letter from Shelley, loaned by Miss Lowell, is an invitation to Keats to visit him at Pisa.

Besides these priceless treasures, there were hung on the walls a group of over one hundred items of a very different variety. This was a portion of Louis A. Holman's collection of Keatsiana, which is wholly illustrative. Taken item by item it is of small intrinsic value but perhaps worthy of special attention on this account. Anyone who will take the time and trouble to do so, can make a collection of this sort. Of course to be success-

ful one must have a certain amount of imagination, an ever-watchful eye, an attentive ear, and a never-ending patience. The Holman collection is intended for wall display, each item being attached to 14 x 11 inch cards. On large, uniform labels are pasted the lines cut from the works of Keats which are illustrated by the prints. The educational value to the collector of such material far outweighs the small expenditure of money involved. And when the collection has attained some size,— it can never be complete — the small value of the individual piece is lost sight of in the decidedly high value of the whole to all students of the subject. The quiet joy of fishing, the high adventure of exploration and the excitement of speculation are here all rolled into one for the lover of literature or history. The result achieved in this attempt to visualize the life and work of John Keats was summed up by Joseph Edgar Chamberlin in the *Transcript:*

'Of every friend and enemy that Keats ever had there is a print. We may follow him all the way on his journey to see Wordsworth at Rydal Mount. Keats liked to go to the theatre, and here is a contemporaneous print of every theatre he went to and here are the playbills. Keats had a curious taste for prize fights, and here is a print of the famous "mill" between Randall and Turner of Dec. 5, 1818. Keats attended Hazlitt's lectures at the Surrey Institution — out pops a print of Rowlandson's inimitably humorous picture of the Surrey Institution lecturer holding forth to a frowsy audience.

'Here is an instance of the faithfulness, the minuteness of Mr. Holman's research. Keats wrote in a letter that he had been to see an exhibition of famous prints, and in the letter he says: 'There is James I., whose appearance would disgrace a society for the suppression of women, so very squalid and subdued to nothing he looks.' Mr. Holman gets this print — and it must be confessed that James I. looks it. To obtain and verify this print took a

great deal of time, correspondence and patience. A picture of Charles Armitage Brown, with whom Keats lived for some time, had to be obtained with infinite patience from New Zealand — but he has it.

'This ingenuity, activity and tirelessness in the search for hundreds of objects, prints, copies of letters, books (not only Keats's but of his friends and of his time), magazine articles on Keats, verses about him, notes on all his places of sojourn and his friends — is the element that has made the Holman collection valuable, and not the expenditure of money. The research involved has enabled Mr. Holman to draw up his own journal of Keats's whole life, day by day, from his cradle to his grave; it has enabled him to check up countless errors by Keats's biographers.'

FORMER OWNERS

THE INCOME of Thomas Hollis's gift of £500 in 1774 made it possible the other day to buy a volume not before in the library, which was once in his possession and on the flyleaf of which he wrote 'An exceedingly curious and very scarce tract, containing many excellent Proposals for Reformation. Yet some, it may be, wrong, especially relating to Religion. T. H.' It is in a particularly good example of the well known Hollis bindings, red morocco, with eight of the emblematical stamps which he had cut for use on the books which he gave to those whom he thought would benefit from their perusal. The title is 'Englands Balme: or proposals by way of Grievance & Remedy; Towards the Regulating of the Law and better Administration of Justice. By William Sheppard. London, 1657.'

The flyleaves also tell the story of its ownership during most of the time since Hollis sent it to America. The earliest reads: 'J. McKean, bot at the sale of the admirable collection of the late Reverend John Eliot, D. D.

May 1813.' Five years later: 'Francis W. P. Greenwood. Bought at the sale of Prof. McKean's Library,' with another note calling attention to the fact that Hollis copied two missing leaves in his own handwriting. George Livermore in October, 1843, wrote: 'Purchased at the bookstore of Messrs. Little & Brown, a very rare and valuable little work.' It was No. 2161 at the Livermore sale, in 1894. Then or later it passed into the possession of Mr. J. Tyler Stevens of Lowell, from whose widow it found its way into the hands of Mr. Frederick J. Libbie. He recognized its especial interest to the College Library and made its acquisition possible.

* * *

Mr. Albert Matthews described some volumes in the Library containing the writings of Comenius, in which are inscriptions showing that they belonged to seventeenth century New Englanders, in the Colonial Society of Massachusetts 'Transactions' for March, 1919. One of these preserves the only known autograph of the Indian, Joel Jacoomis, who was in college in 1665.

On the flyleaf of another is a note that has been identified as written by a Freshman of 1733, inviting his tutor to meet him at a Junior's room:

'Davenport: Sr. these are to entreat you to step up to Swans study and drink a glass of ale.

'So I rest yours to serve,

Jno. Phillips'

Professor Hanus had previously noted many of these Harvard volumes in his essay on 'The Permanent Influence of Comenius,' printed in The Educational Review for March, 1892.

* * *

One of the volumes which came with Professor Morris H. Morgan's collection of editions of Persius, as a New Year's Day gift in 1910, illustrates the various

interests which the cataloguers need to consider. It was printed in 1535 at the Aldine press in Venice, so it is also listed in the library's special 'Ald' classification of the productions of that press. The original flyleaves, fortunately preserved when it was rebound, are fragments of a vellum manuscript, with what is perhaps the library's earliest specimen of an original Dutch text. Lastly, it is mentioned here because it once belonged to Alexander Boswell, the father of Johnson's biographer, who dated his autograph in Paris, 1729.

A LETTER OF APPRAISAL

As I have been spending several days in the Widener Library, becoming acquainted with its contents, more particularly in the collections of books relating to Portugal and Brazil, it occurred to me that you might be interested in some of the impressions my visit made upon me.

It is hardly necessary to reiterate what I have told you several times, that this library is the students' paradise on account of conveniences and facilities for work and of the vast contents at the disposal of the worker. Every one who comes has received the same impression and not a few have already expressed it.

My last trip to the library was to see whether I could lay my hands on the long series of the publications of the Geographical and Historical Institute of Brazil. I had been working in New York, where the series in question was only half complete. It not only was to be found in the Widener Library, but with it nearly all the other series of a similar nature touching the two countries I was interested in. It was amazing to find nearly all the sets and series pertaining to the legislation, to the history, to the history of diplomacy (sets containing the treaties of these two countries since the XV. century) and the sciences. Moreover there were many serials both weekly

and monthly, of magazines which compare with our North American Review, and publications of universities. The shelves were also rich in the general histories of the countries mentioned. Rich too in books on bibliography. The fundamental ground work for a splendid collection was there.

However, there were many gaps. The monographs, the critical works of the Brazilian and Portuguese students, both in history and in literature, were mostly missing. The most recent books from these two countries were missing. Yet I am glad to say that I found several books on the shelves which were not there a few months ago. On the whole I should say that the shelves are richer in books of history, political, economic and diplomatic, than in literature and criticism.

I believe there is no better collection along these lines in this country. My impressions are based on what I saw in connection with two subjects with which I am more familiar than any others; but the thought occurred to me that the same conditions might exist in other lines and that I should be doing a service in mentioning them. You may be sure that I shall do all in my power to help fill in these gaps.

With best wishes for the future of the Library, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John B. Stetson, Jr.

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